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Wendy Welt  
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# **Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities**

*Celebrating 30 Years of Leadership & Advocacy*

## **MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 140, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Rubenstein at 1:10 p.m. Introductions of Commissioners, Staff and audience members followed.

### **APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2006 MINUTES**

On motion of Commissioner Siegel, seconded by Commissioner Weller and unanimously carried, the minutes of February 15, 2006 were approved.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Linda Block advised that people should urge representatives to enforce the citizenship requirements for Medicaid recipients, and to recommend an 18% cut in funding for overseas family planning.
- Hugh Hallenberg reported a proposed rule change to the Federal Transit Authority is circulating that includes a "reasonable modification" clause for paratransit passengers whose transit needs exceed curb-to-curb service. Mr. Hallenberg encouraged all people with disabilities to contact the Federal Transit Authority to let them know the disabled community supports reasonable modification.
- Commissioner Hamilton announced that politicians from the Assembly called him to request a list of topics important to the disabled community. Assembly candidates will use this list to prepare themselves for upcoming elections.

On motion of Commissioner Siegel, seconded by Commissioner Weller, and carried unanimously, a motion to add this topic list to the next meeting agenda was passed.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chair Neal reported that:

- Commissioner Russell resigned. A letter of thanks will be sent to him for his service on the Commission, and a letter will also be sent to the Little People of America requesting a replacement for Commissioner Russell.
- CALIF (Californians Living Independent and Free) honored Commissioner Hamilton with a Coretta Scott King Award for “dedicated, effective leadership toward the goal of equality and respect for the civil rights of all people”.

**Approval: have representatives from the County Department of Public Social Services discuss the proposed Quality Assurance Program for IHSS Services** - On motion of Commissioner Siegel, seconded by Ernest Hamilton, and carried unanimously, the motion was approved.

**Approval: support SB 840 — Health Insurance Reliability Act** - On motion of Commissioner Siegel, seconded by Ernest Hamilton, and carried unanimously, the motion was approved.

**Approval (Withdrawn): send a letter in support of Attorney General Lockyear's plan to file suit against the Federal Government** - Following a discussion, on motion of Commissioner Siegel, seconded by Commissioner Weller, the motion was withdrawn.

**Approval: send letter to Governor Schwarzenegger in opposition to his motion to withhold the State COLA for SSI recipients** - On motion of Commissioner Siegel, seconded by Ernest Hamilton, and carried unanimously, the motion was approved.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Dedie Ward announced the following:

- Teddy Remhild submitted information on the 250% California Working Disabled program. Flyers with the same information were distributed to the commissioners.
- The Commission has been invited to attend the Quality and Productivity Commission's Annual Leadership Conference on May 25, 2006, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Los Angeles Music Center. Lunch is provided.

Commissioners wishing to attend should call Mrs. Ward at 213-974-1431.

Mrs. Ward also reported on behalf of Commissioner Krzyzanowski that:

- He spoke with Supervisor Molina, who plans to fill the two vacancies in the 1<sup>st</sup> District and work more closely with the Commission in the future.
- He attended a panel discussion in February to speak about mental health issues and the Commission, and left brochures for those in attendance.
- An article on the Commission appeared in the *Antelope Valley Press* on February 20, 2006.

### **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMPLIANCE OFFICE (OAAC)]**

Kurt Hagen, ADA representative, reported the following:

- The ADA Compliance Office has changed its name to the Disabilities Civil Rights Compliance Section (DCRCS).
- His office continues to conduct its FY 2005-2006 ADA compliance reviews of program and physical access to County departments.
- Over fifty awareness and employment requirement trainings will be conducted by the DCRCS. The trainings will explore Title II of the ADA, and employment issues for County employees with disabilities.
- From here on, the Employment Discrimination Investigations Section of DCRCS will handle questions on employment requirements.
- The DCRCS is in the process of approving a unit on appropriate interaction for its disability awareness and etiquette trainings.
- The CAO has been sent plans for distribution of the Supervisor's Maintenance Fund, which is set aside each year to address barriers to access identified through complaints against County departments.
- Disability Awareness and Etiquette Workshops will be conducted at the upcoming annual Multicultural Conference on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of April.
- The DCRCS is preparing to hold an ADA Coordinator Meeting to discuss ADA

precedents, and give special consideration to emergency evacuation and emergency procedures for people with disabilities. Mr. Hagen will update the Commission on results of the meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Public Relations Committee**

Chair Neal postponed this item in light of Commissioner Krzyzanowski's absence.

### **Approval : Support of play entitled *There is Help in Gimp City* by Commissioner Hamilton**

Commissioner Hamilton announced that his play will show every Friday and Saturday in May at the USC Scene Dock Theatre, Gregory Glass directing. Commissioner Hamilton will write a letter about the play to Maria Shriver and Governor Schwarzenegger, and has asked to use Commission on Disabilities' letterhead. Chair Neal said the Commission could support the play and that the public should be made aware that the word Gimp stands for "**G**ee, **I'M** Paralyzed".

On motion of Commissioner Siegel, seconded by Commissioner Weller, and carried unanimously, the Commission agreed to support Commissioner Hamilton's play.

### **Update Community Forum Radio Program**

Chair Neal reported the radio program hosted a presentation by the National Fibromyalgia Association. Fibromyalgia is gaining recognition as a chronic pain disorder accompanied by acute fatigue. It affects an estimated 3-6% of the population, mostly women.

## **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

### **Disabled Parking Enforcement**

Carried over to next month.

### **City of Los Angeles, City-Ride Program — Mr. John Fong, Director of Specialized Transit, City of Los Angeles**

Mr. Fong presented on the City-Ride Program, a consolidated transit service for seniors and people with disabilities. Eligible riders pay \$6 (low-income rate) or \$15 (regular rate) plus postage for 78 transit scrip each month. A single scrip buys \$1 of transit for up to \$12 of bus or taxi fare, or toward a monthly bus pass. Associated taxi companies outside of the Los Angeles city limits will accept City-Ride scrip. City-Ride has a 98% on-time record, around 100,000 registered riders, and provides over 13 million rides each year. All 72 City-Ride vehicles are accessible.

### **Report from Access Services — Jess Segovia**

Mr. Segovia mentioned that Access Services holds monthly community meetings in each of its six service regions. Access Services also has a Community Advisory Committee made up of people from all backgrounds and disability throughout Los Angeles County. Commissioner Wright recommended that Access Services conduct these meetings quarterly, which Mr. Segovia agreed is feasible. Mr. Segovia also offered to have Access Services come make a presentation on a topic of the Commission's choosing.

### **ITEMS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA TO BE PLACED ON FUTURE AGENDA**

Chair Neal requested that Staff ensure the Commission is listed in the 2006 edition of the County of Los Angeles Telephone Directory.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Chair Neal announced on behalf of Brent F. Burton that the Black Firefighter's Association will conduct a free seven-week training on disaster preparedness at the Hartsfield Stentorian Training Center, 1409 W. Vernon Ave, Los Angeles, California 90062. RSVP to 323-296-4690 or 3232-294-4143.
- Ray McKeever announced that he will speak on behalf of the blind-deaf on a radio station in Northridge on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Present**

Janet Neal, Chair  
Harley Rubenstein, Vice Chair  
Bernard Siegel, Treasurer  
Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr.  
Michael G. Gureckas  
Richard Krzyzanowski  
John B. Troost  
Kecia Weller  
Sheila D. Wright

#### **Board of Supervisors**

Dedie Ward  
Audra Galang

#### **Excused Absent**

None

#### **Unexcused Absent**

Ruth Ann Acosta  
Carlton L. Russell  
Wendy Welt

#### **Guests**

Phyllis Coto  
In Young Choe  
Maria N. Tan  
Roné C. Ellis  
Teddie Joy Remhild

**County of Los Angeles**  
Kurt Hagen

Royce Crowder  
Gary Barnett  
Carlton Linda  
Geetu Roy  
Veronica D. Way  
Donald Brandon